



E-Legislative Update

April 5, 2010

We are in the fourth week of special session. In this stage of the legislative process, the legislature continues to negotiate a final budget and revenue package.

You can [contact](#) your legislator making your position on a bill or the state budget known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.



The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focuses on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community.

Week Three Highlights of Special Session:

Creation of a Health Care Cabinet: On April 1st, Governor Gregoire unveiled a proposal to get Washington ready to implement health care reform in preparation for the law taking effect. The Governor signed an executive order creating a Health Care Cabinet to implement health care reform in our state, maximize efficiencies, and bring the full benefits of the new law to Washington citizens. This group will be tasked with identifying all opportunities for Washington to receive federal funds from the new law. By August 1, 2010, the Health Care Cabinet will provide a detailed work plan on the implementation of health care reform.

Federal Health Reform: Last week, Attorney General Rob McKenna signed onto a lawsuit to block health reform, along with Attorney Generals from ten other states. Governor Gregoire spoke out against his actions. Many community groups have written letters and petitions requesting that the Attorney General withdraw from the lawsuit.

On Monday, March 29th, Governor Gregoire joined Senator Maria Cantwell and several legislative leaders in a press conference in Olympia to highlight the importance of the Basic Health Program in Washington.

On Thursday, April 1st, the Governor announced changes in the state's administration of health programs. [Click here](#) for more information.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the area of **EDUCATION**:

- On March 29th, the Governor signed into law a package of education reform bills, including bills increasing the state's spending on public education, allowing local officials to ask voters for more property tax money, setting up a new early learning program for preschool children, and a plan that could help the state compete for funds from the Race to the Top program.
- The Governor also signed [HB 3026](#) which authorizes the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enforce and obtain compliance with the civil rights laws of Washington State in our public school system.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- The Senate passed [SSB 6846](#) relating to enhanced 911 emergency communications services. This bill increases the state and county enhanced 911 excise tax and revises the duties of the state enhanced 911 coordination office.
- On March 31st, the Governor signed [SB 6726](#) - Making the Governor the public employer of language access providers.

Highlights of legislative discussion on the **BUDGET** and **REVENUE** include:

- The Legislature continues to negotiate a final budget and revenue package.

To find out more information on bills signed by the Governor, [click here](#).

To access a copy of *Legislative Session Review 2010*, [click here](#). This document contains information on bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community from this past regular session.

Information is current as of: April 2, 2010.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).